

# Southwest Public Lands People



News for Public Lands employees, retirees & partners  
*Early Winter 2013*



## Help the San Juan Reforest Burned Areas



**DURANGO** - A donation to the San Juan NF Plant-a-Tree Program is a great gift for that special person who has everything and loves the natural world. For \$10, the donor receives a certificate suitable for framing on behalf of a person or family, and five seedlings are reserved to help reforest a burned area on the San Juan NF.

The agency spends about \$2 to grow each seedling in a nursery and to plant it. Seedlings are planted in areas that need extra help to reforest after natural disturbances, such as wildfires. The San Juan's reforestation efforts are currently concentrated in the spruce and ponderosa pine forests damaged by large fires in the Missionary Ridge, Vallecito and Narraguinup areas.

"Some burned areas will reforest naturally, but on southeast to southwest facing slopes and harsher environments, regeneration can take centuries," said Gretchen Fitzgerald, San Juan NF Forester. "We focus on areas where large-scale stand replacement fires have occurred in areas outside of Wilderness, where there is virtually no probability that reforestation will take place on its own within the next 50 to 100 years."

Reforestation provides future habitat for Canadian lynx, boreal owl, Abert's squirrel and Merriam's turkey. It also decreases soil erosion, helps with snow retention in spring, and helps to sequester carbon and provide oxygen.

The USFS established the national Plant-A-Tree Program in 1983 to allow donors to contribute money to help plant trees on National Forests to memorialize loved ones or commemorate births, weddings or special events, while helping improve the environment.

Seedlings planted with the donations are not designated on the ground as a memorial or individually recognized, but instead become part of the forest ecosystem.

- Ann Bond

Donations can be made in person by cash, check or credit card at San Juan NF offices. Credit card donations can also be made over the phone. Checks can be mailed to San Juan National Forest Plant-A-Tree Coordinator, 15 Burnett Court, Durango, CO 81301. Checks should be made payable to USDA Forest Service, with "Plant-A-Tree, San Juan National Forest" noted in the memo portion of the check. The program is considered a charitable donation by the IRS. Requests may take a few days to process, and contributions cannot be refunded. The donor receives a personalized certificate suitable for framing to document the gift.

# SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER



## Murph Retires

**DURANGO** - Mike Murphy, San Juan NF Civil Engineering Technician, retired at the end of 2012 after 41 years of federal service. Mike was responsible for computer-aided designs, roadway materials and construction inspection.

Murph came to the San Juan in 1971, working summers as an engineering seasonal on the Pagosa RD and winters as a snowplow driver and maintenance man for the Colorado Department of Transportation. From 1975 to 1980, he worked as a CDOT engineer.

Mike is a Durango High School graduate and holds a Bachelor's degree in Managerial Economics from Fort Lewis College. He also completed two years of graduate study in economics at Montana State University. Murph says he is proud of constructing on-the-ground computer designs created by FS design teams.

"What a wonderful learning experience, working in an environment where I was provided an opportunity to improve my job and creative skills," he says. "I know I will miss

the challenges, the good times and good people here."

In retirement, Murph plans to enjoy golf, hunting for game birds, saltwater fishing, furniture building and spending time with his stepdaughter, stepson and grandchildren.

- Ann Bond



## Joe Retiring

**DURANGO** - Joe Milburn, San Juan NF Contracting Officer since 1986, will retire at the end of this month. Joe began his federal career on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison NFs in 1980 as a Business Management Trainee, then worked as a Regional Office Contract Specialist Trainee. He was a Contract Specialist Trainee and Contracting Officer on the Black Hills NF before moving to Durango. Joe was an RO employee stationed in Durango twice during his career, including as the Regional Stewardship Contracting Officer in 2010.

"During my 25 seasons on the San Juan, I awarded contracts totaling over \$100 million, but my involvement was relatively small when compared to the resource folks and engineers," Joe says. "My job has been to assist them and find a legal way to get things done on the ground."

His career highlights include serving as the San Juan's first Agreements Specialist and drawing up the agreement between the Forest and San Juan Mountains Association. Joe also facilitated the drafting of the Service First Agreement between the USFS and BLM and handled the nation's first joint USFS/BLM stewardship contract.

Joe has been officiating for local football games in his free time for 26 seasons. In retirement he plans to enjoy time with family; wife Melanie, son Brandon in Bayfield, and daughter Jessi in Denver. He also wants to prioritize fishing, learning to play a musical instrument, and riding his motorcycle.

- Ann Bond



## Brian Retiring

**DURANGO** - Brian Parker, San Juan Biological Sciences Technician, will retire this month but continue to work as a third-party contractor on air-quality monitoring, which has been part of his regular duties.

Brian began his federal career in 1974 as a Forestry Technician. He worked five seasons in timber for the Pagosa, Dolores and former Animas RDs and five years in silviculture in the San Juan Supervisor's Office. He also worked for about a decade in dispersed and developed recreation for the Animas/Columbine RD. For the past nine years he has handled air quality and seep monitoring on the Fruitland Formation under hydrology and BLM minerals.

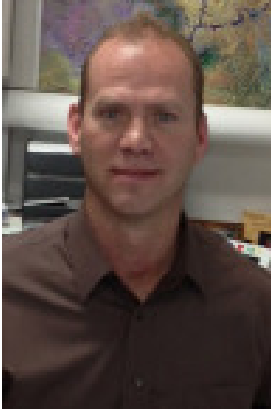
"One of the most satisfying things has been to become familiar with a large extent of the San Juan and interact with public lands users in an informative and interpretive way," Brian says.

Brian attended Northern Arizona University. He and wife, Sally, plan to enjoy retirement mountain biking, canyoneering and spending time with family.

- Ann Bond



# SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER



## BLM Energy Shop Sees Changes

**DURANGO - Rick Rymerson** (left), BLM Tres Rios FO Minerals Staff Chief since 2007, leaves in January to become BLM North Dakota Field Office Manager in Dickinson. Rick began his federal career with the U.S. Air Force in 1986, later working as a BLM Geologist in St. George, Utah, and Lander, Wyoming.

Rick also serves as a bioenvironmental engineer with the Alaska Air National Guard. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Geology from Eastern Washington University and a Master's in Geochemistry from the University of Florida. He and wife, Dawn, have two sons, Colin, 18; and Trevor, 16; and a daughter, Autumn, 11. Rick enjoys the outdoors, sports and music.

"It's been a pleasure to work with great folks in an awesome location," Rick says. "Hopefully I've been able to help make a positive difference in how we manage oil and gas on the San Juan Public Lands."

**Loren Wickstrom** (right), BLM Supervisory Petroleum Engineering Technician for Tres Rios for the past four years, will follow Rymerson to Dickinson to become Assistant Field Office Manager for the North Dakota Field Office. Loren began his federal career in 1992 working for the BLM in Durango as a fluids and hard-rock geologist overseeing oil and gas, mining, and sand and gravel operations on public lands. He also worked on the Abandoned Mined Lands Program and as Logistics Section Chief for the Rock Mountain Incident Management Team. Loren holds a Bachelor's degree in Geology from San Jose State University. He enjoys skiing, kayaking and soccer.



**Rodney Brashear** (left), has been named as Loren's replacement as BLM Supervisory Petroleum Engineering Technician responsible for supervising oil and gas inspectors for the Tres Rios Field Office. Rod started his federal career in 2000 with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Cortez. From 2001 to 2007 Rodd was a Range Technician for the Dolores RD before moving to Durango as BLM Petroleum Engineering Technician.

"I really enjoy working in the oil and gas industry in this area, and have a really great crew of Inspectors to work with," he says.

Prior to his federal career, Rod was a heavy fleet mechanic and a roughneck working on geothermal and water/injection wells. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Biology/Chemistry from Fort Lewis College and Automotive Technician degree from Denver Automotive and Diesel College. Rod and wife, Marcella, have two boys; Benjamin and Joshua, both in graduate school. Rod enjoys shooting, hunting, fast cars and motorcycles.

**Brenna Kampf** (right) was promoted from BLM Tres Rios Field Office Legal Instruments Examiner to Land Law Examiner in 2012. Her responsibilities include the adjudication of communitization agreements, posting lease actions and bonding verification.

Over the past year, Brenna has also helped create and teach a new Fluid Minerals Adjudication Fundamentals Course for the BLM National Training Center in Grand Junction and Phoenix.

Brenda has been with the BLM since 2008. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Biology from Fort Lewis College. Reed, her 19-month-old son, keeps Brenna and husband, Clay, busy outside of work.



**Barbara Telecky** (left), previously San Juan Mountains Association Visitor Information Specialist in the PLC, has been named the new BLM Tres Rios Legal Instruments Examiner for oil and gas.

Barb came to the San Juan in 2006 as a seasonal working on the National Visitor Use Monitoring Project for the Columbine RD and went to work for SJMA in 2007. Before that, she served seasonal VIS appointments on the Los Padres and Sequoia NFs in California from 2003 to 2005. Barb is married to Jeff Sheftal, a pilot for Skywest Airlines.

"I am looking forward to a new challenge," she says.

- Ann Bond

## COLUMBINE RANGER DISTRICT



Nancy Berry above Chicago Basin in the Weminuche Wilderness.

### Nancy Retiring

**DURANGO** - Nancy Berry - who has worked in Recreation, Wilderness and Travel Management on the Columbine RD for the past 15 years - will retire at the end of January.

Nancy started her federal career in 1978 as a seasonal working on USFS timber, reforestation and trail crews, and also as a wilderness ranger. She landed a permanent position on the San Juan's former Pine District in 1988 in developed recreation. In 1990 she moved to the White River NF Sopris RD, returning to the San Juan in 1995 for the Integrated Resource Inventory. The following year she headed to Columbine as Recreation Lead, taking her most current position in 1997.

Nancy is most proud of her work with the combined San Juan/Rio Grande NFs Wilderness Team helping to manage the Weminuche Wilderness as a single unit across the two forests. Nancy holds a Bachelor's degree from Colorado State University in Forestry and Recreation and completed one year of Masters of Public Administration study at CU-Boulder. She and husband, Parker Newby, plan to continue hiking, skiing and biking.

Nancy's advice to the rest of us: "Try not to pay attention to the whims of the bureaucracy and perform your work. You get paid to do what many people pay to do, so enjoy it and provide a good service to the public."

- Ann Bond



### Daisy Retires

**BAYFIELD** - Daisy, parade super mule and go-to pack animal on the Columbine RD, is retiring to greener pastures at the Wood Ranch in Tiffany. Daisy, 22, arrived on the San Juan NF in 2001 to provide support to the district's equine crew. Only later did she divulge her expertise as a parade and draft animal.

Daisy began her USFS career in the mid-1990s with the Rocky Mountain Regional Pack String in Bailey and is a product of the Amish schooling system. Her talents include never dragging back in the string and the ability to conduct a freighter turn just like the Budweiser Clydesdales. She also knows "Gee" from "Haw" and is greatly appreciated for never leaving camp.

Her career highlights include participating in Durango and Bayfield parades,

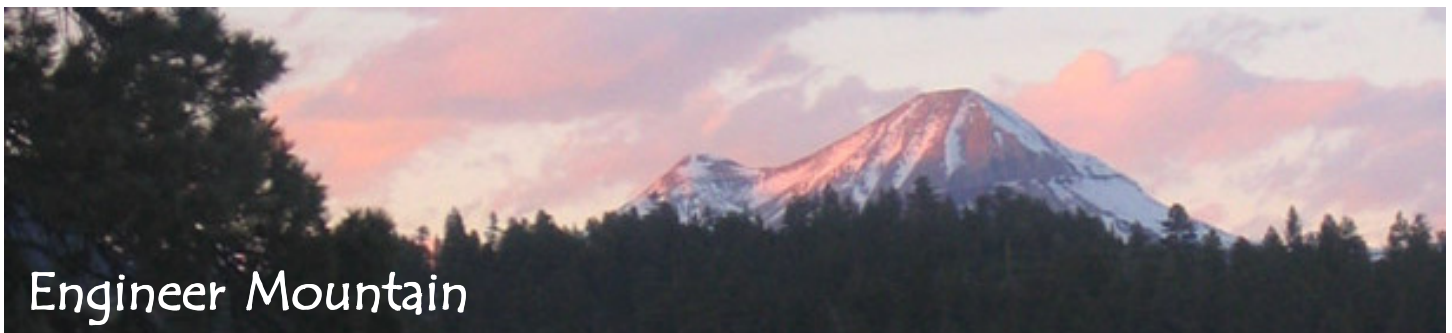
skidding building materials near Silverton in a blizzard, and tearing my rotator cuff. She was also instrumental in rehabilitating the Granite Peaks Guard Station in the Weminuche Wilderness.

Daisy looks forward to eating and hanging out with her retired equine friend, Joker.

- Rowdy Wood, former SJNF Muleteer



Daisy and Rowdy proudly pull the poopier scooper wagon at Durango's USFS Centennial Parade in 2005.



Engineer Mountain



## COLUMBINE RANGER DISTRICT



### Dave Retires

**DURANGO** - Dave Crawford, Silviculturist for the San Juan NF Headwaters Timber Zone, retired at the end of the year after 37 years of federal service.

Dave began his federal career in 1970 as a seasonal Forestry Technician on the Roosevelt NF Red Feather Lakes RD. That was followed by seasonal positions on a regional spruce bark beetle survey crew and on the San Juan's old Glade and Pine RDs.

In 1975 he landed his first permanent position as a Junior Forester for the BLM on the Oregon Coast. Seeking sunshine, he headed back to the San Juan in 1978 as a presale forester for the old Animas RD, then commuted to Dolores for four years as a reforestation forester.

In 1984, Dave headed back to the Animas RD, which became the Columbine RD, to work in timber and fire. Since then he has worked all over the east side of the forest in timber, reforestation, forest health, fuels, travel management, insect and disease, and forest restoration.

"I've enjoyed an amazing and incredible 'dance' on the San Juan for a good many years," Dave says. "This is a spectacularly beautiful Forest, with an equally spectacular cadre of people caring for it."

Dave has been a Certified Silviculturist since 1981 and holds a Bachelor's degree in Forest Science from Colorado State University.

He intends to spend retirement traveling, shortening up his "to do" list at home, fishing, and getting fat and lazy (right!). He'll also be spending quality time with wife, Linda Knipp (although she's not retiring yet), daughters Kristina of Castle Rock and Karry of Flagstaff and step-sons Bucky of Bayfield and Cody of Durango. Dave and Linda also have nine grand- and step-grandchildren ranging in age from 5 to 16 years old to keep them busy.

- Ann Bond

## DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE



### Kiley heads North

**DOLORES** - Kiley Whited, DPLO Rangeland Management Specialist, is leaving the BLM Tres Rios Field Office to work for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in South Dakota. Kiley has handled the grazing program and Spring Creek Herd Management Area for BLM for the past year.

"We couldn't have been happier with Kiley," said TJ Holmes, a volunteer with the Disappointment Wild Bunch Partners, a long-term agency partner. "We were able to get a fertility control program for the mustangs with his involvement, and it will continue in no small part because of his encouragement."

Kiley has also worked for the BLM Alturas Field Office in California and NRCS in Oklahoma. During his early career, he held BLM seasonal jobs in Idaho, Montana and Colorado.

- Ann Bond

(LEFT) Kiley Whited (at right) conducts a range inventory demonstration for Naturita Middle School students and teachers at the Spring Creek Basin Wild Management Area.



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